Russian Nuclear Edge to Indian Defence

3410. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russian has agreed to give nuclear edge to Indian defence;

(b) if so. whether India would lease nuclear bombers and a nuclear-propelled submarine from Russia as part of a $ 3 billion package;

(c) whether Indo-US defence Policy Group visited India and had talks with Indian Government for keeping military co-operations between India and America:

(d) if so, whether India had also in agreement with France for supply of submarines to India;

(e) if so. to what extent US. Russia and France have agreed to provide military assistance to India; and

(f) what were the agreements signed with these countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) No. Sir.

(c) Yes. Sir.

(d) A proposal for construction of submarines by Mazagon Docks Limited in collaboration with a French company has been approved in principle. Necessary agreements for the project are yet to be signed.

(e) and (f) Defence deals and agreements with foreign firms of various countries, including United States. France and Russia, are entered into from time to time keeping in view the requirements of national security. In view of the sensitive nature of the information, it will be in the interest of national security to disclose further details in the matter.

Sino-lndo Relations

3411. SHRI RAJIV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sino-lndo relations were discussed at 5th Asian Security Conference at Delhi, late January;

(b) whether Defence Minister who spoke at the meet described China as having great potential for mutually beneficial economic relations with India.